

Bank Street College of Education

**Educate**

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The Center for Children's Literature

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2023

## **The Best Board Books of the Year [2023 edition]**

Bank Street College of Education. Children's Book Committee

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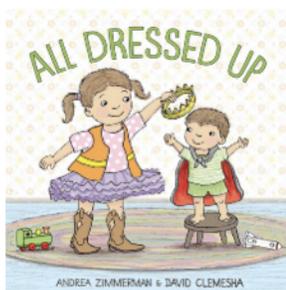
THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COMMITTEE OF  
BANK STREET COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

THE BEST  
BOARD  
BOOKS  
OF THE YEAR  
2023 EDITION



BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2021 AND 2022

## Board Books Published 2021

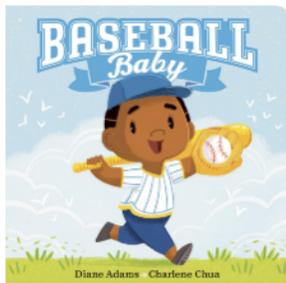


### All Dressed Up

by Andrea Zimmerman, illustrated by David Clemesha

(Little Simon/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$8.99)  
978-1-5344-3870-5

Chef? Diver? Cowgirl? Whatever the profession and activity, each has its own attire. Bright, engaging illustrations on double-page spreads. (0-3)

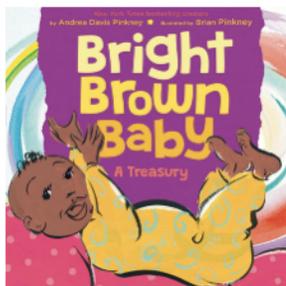


### Baseball Baby (Sports Baby Book series)

by Diane Adams, illustrated by Charlene Chua

(Viking Children's Books/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, \$7.99)  
978-0-593-20243-2

A toddler enjoys a baseball game with his family and explains the basics in rhyme. Bold illustrations. Also available in Spanish. (1-3)

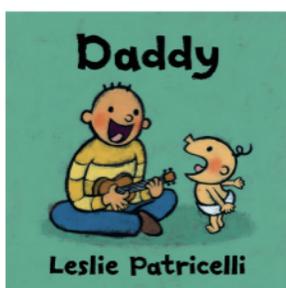


### Bright Brown Baby: A Treasury

by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney

(Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-0-545-87229-4

A collection of stories uplift Black and Brown babies and encourage love, affirmation, and understanding of child development through family interactions. Gouache and acrylic illustrations. (0-1) (series)



### Daddy

written and illustrated by Leslie Patricelli

(Candlewick Press, \$7.99) 978-1-5362-0382-0

Daddy can do everything (according to a diapered narrator)! Bright, acrylic illustrations accompany simple rhyming text. Available in Spanish. (0-3)

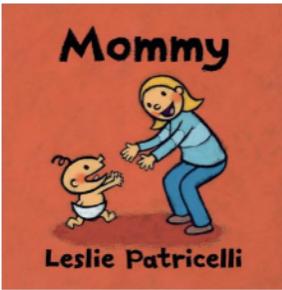


### Families Can

by Dan Saks, illustrated by Brooke Smart

(Rise X Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House, \$7.99) 978-0-593-22365-9

A celebration of the American family in its many permutations. Warm illustrations portray diverse households. (0-3)



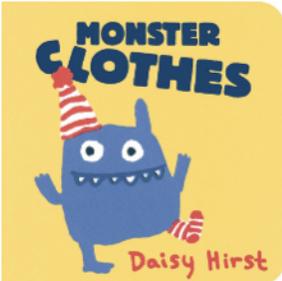
### **Mommy**

written and illustrated by Leslie Patricelli

(Candlewick Press, \$7.99) 978-1-5362-0381-3

Mommy can do everything (according to a diapered narrator)! Bright, acrylic illustrations accompany rhyming text. Available in Spanish. (0-3)

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### **Monster Clothes**

written and illustrated by Daisy Hirst

(Candlewick Press, \$7.99) 978-1-5362-1528-1

Everybody—including a behemoth—needs to find something to wear in the morning. Humorous screen printed illustrations. (0-3)

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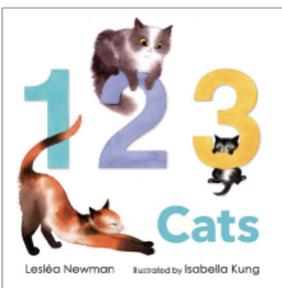
### **New House**

written and illustrated by Dave Wheeler

(Rise X/Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House, \$9.99) 978-0-593-22492-2

A toddler explores his fascinating but unfamiliar new home and is assured of familial love. Humorous mixed-media illustrations. (2-4)

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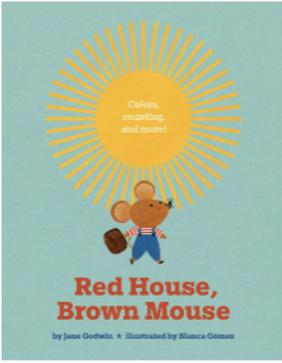
### **1 2 3 Cats: A Cat Counting Book**

by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Isabella Kung

(Candlewick Press, \$7.99) 978-1-5362-0995-2

In rhyming text, counting from 1 to 12, felines participate in fun, kitty-centric activities. Sumi ink on watercolor paper. (2-3)

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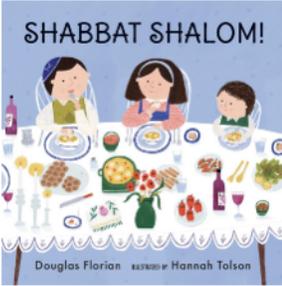
### **Red House, Brown Mouse**

by Jane Godwin, illustrated by Blanca Gómez

(Dial BFYR/ Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, \$7.99) 978-0-593-11219-9

Rhyming text accompanies a little mouse's journey through a colorful city. Bold illustrations. (1-3)

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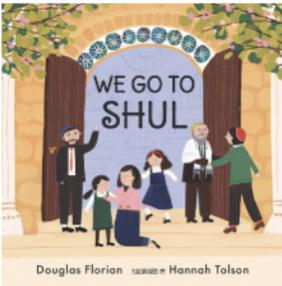
### **Shabbat Shalom!**

by Douglas Florian, illustrated by Hannah Tolson

(Candlewick Press, \$7.99) 978-1-5362-0449-0

Simple rhyming text and cheerful, colorful mixed-media illustrations describe an Orthodox Jewish family's Sabbath evening celebration. (2-4)

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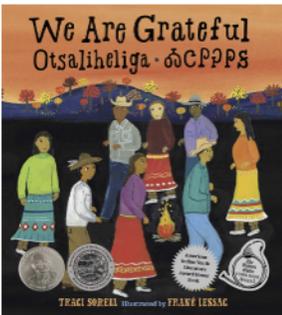
### **We Go to Shul**

by Douglas Florian, illustrated by Hannah Tolson

(Candlewick Press, \$7.99) 978-1-5362-0450-6

A young family celebrates Shabbat, the weekly Jewish day of rest and prayer. Detailed mixed-media illustrations. (2-4)

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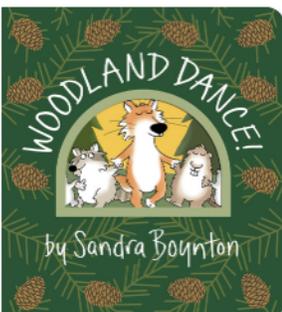
### **We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga**

By Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac

(Charlesbridge, \$8.99) 978-1-62354-299-3

Poetic words of thanks for life cycle events, daily occurrences, and native history and culture. Includes Cherokee language. Cheerful gouache illustrations.

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### **Woodland Dance!**

written and illustrated by Sandra Boynton

(Workman Publishing, \$7.95) 978-1-5235-1468-7

On special nights of the year, forest creatures meet for an important soirée. Rhyming text and earth-toned illustrations. (0-3)

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## Board Books Published 2022

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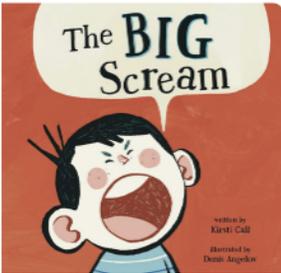


### **Baby's Here!**

by Jessica Young, illustrated by Geneviève Godbout  
(Clarion/Harper Collins, \$7.99) 978-0-358-43858-8

An interactive and playful rhyming celebration of the arrival of a new sibling, told from a toddler's perspective. Soft pastel illustrations. (1-3)

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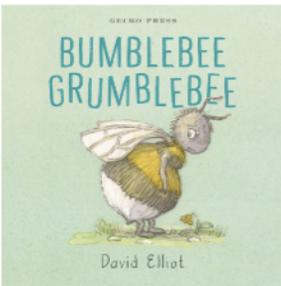


### **The Big Scream**

by Kirsti Call, illustrated by Denis Angelov  
(Little Simon, \$7.99) 978-1-6659-0739-2

Little ones learn how to manage a tantrum. Sweet, colorful illustrations. (2-4)

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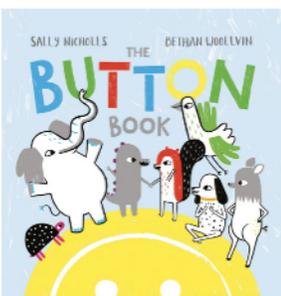


### **Bumblebee, Grumblebee**

written and illustrated by David Elliot  
(Gecko Press, \$9.99) 978-1776574025

Animals shown with alter egos, are transformed by lighthearted wordplay. Detailed pastel illustrations. (0-2)

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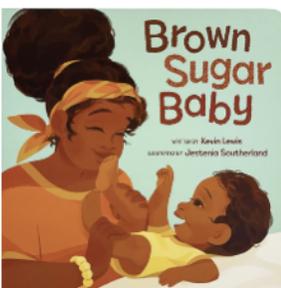


### **The Button Book**

by Sally Nicholls, illustrated by Bethan Woollvin  
(Tundra, \$8.99) 978-0-7352

Find out what happens when you *do* press the button! Child-like black and white illustrations with color accents. (1-3)

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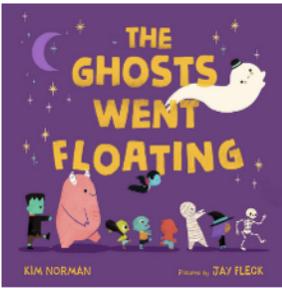


### **Brown Sugar Baby**

by Kevin Lewis, illustrated by Jestenia Southerland  
(Cottage Door Press, \$9.99) 978-1-64638-410-5

A rhyming celebration of the sweetness of babies. Warm, vibrant illustrations. (0-3)

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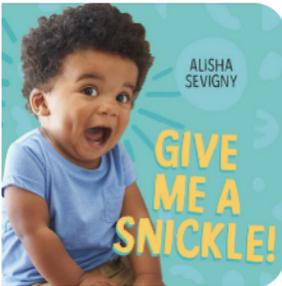
### **The Ghosts Went Floating**

by Kim Norman, illustrated by Jay Fleck

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux \$8.99) 978-0-374-39011-2

Read or sing along to the tune of “The Ants Go Marching” as colorful, creepy creatures dance under moonlit skies with jaunty numbers. (2-4)

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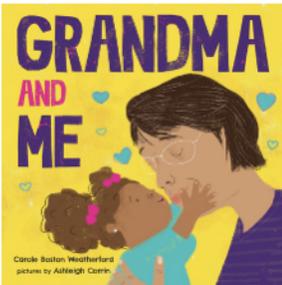
### **Give Me a Snickle**

by Alisha Sevigny

(Orca Publishers, \$10.95) 978-1459828704

“A snuggle. A tickle.” That combination is a “snickle.” With diverse photos of babies and loving adults and funny made-up words. (0-2)

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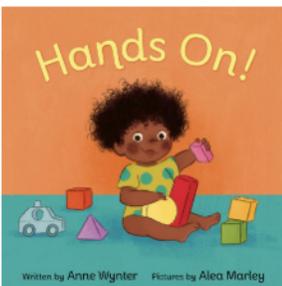
### **Grandma and Me**

by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ashleigh Corrin

(Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, \$7.99) 978-1728242439

In the yard or the kitchen, on laps and in loving arms, Brown and Black babies and toddlers spend joyful moments with their grandmothers. Gentle, colorful illustrations. (0-3)

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### **Hands On!**

by Anne Wynter, illustrated by Alea Marley

(Balzer & Bray, \$7.99) 978-0-06-293492-5

A baby’s journey to first steps. Sweet, charming mixed-media illustrations. (0-2)

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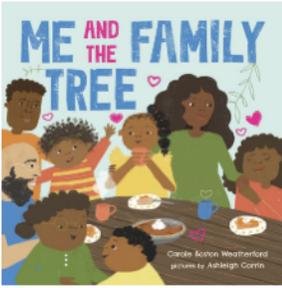
### **Hats Are Not for Cats!**

written and illustrated by Jacqueline K. Rayner

(Clarion Books, \$8.99) 978-0-35-873108-5

A kitty is determined to change a big dog’s mind. Expressive, charming artwork. (1-3)

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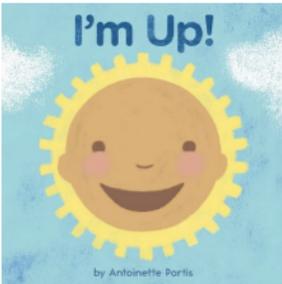


### **Me and the Family Tree**

by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ashleigh Corrin  
(Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, \$7.99) ISBN 978-1-7282-4246-0

Black children of various skin tones and physical appearances reflect on the love they have for their mothers. Colorful illustrations. (2-4)

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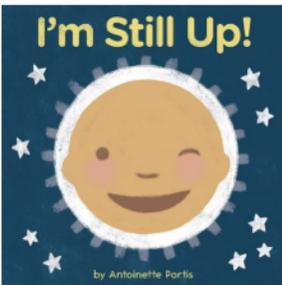


### **I'm Up!**

written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$7.99) 978-0-358-18135-4

Early riser baby wakes everybody up! Sunny, mixed-media illustrations. (0-1)

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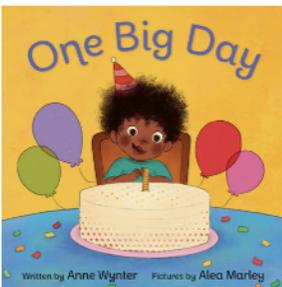


### **I'm Still Up!**

written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$7.99) 978-0-358-18135-4

Parents are ready to say good night but the baby is not! Repeating text; sweet mixed-media illustrations. (0-1)

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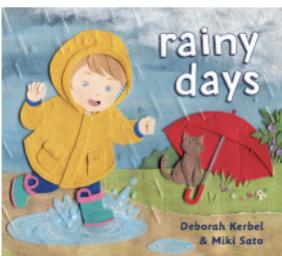


### **One Big Day**

by Anne Wynter, illustrated by Alea Marley  
(Balzer & Bray, \$7.99) 978-0-06-293493-2

Baby's first birthday is celebrated in simple rhyming text with colorful and vibrant mixed media illustrations. (0-1)

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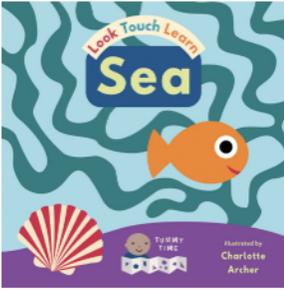


### **Rainy Days (Weather day's series)**

by Deborah Kerbel & Mike Sato  
(Pajama Press, \$17.95) 978-1-77278-246-2

All the ways a preschooler can learn from and enjoy the rain. Rhyming couplets. Collage and mixed media illustrations. (2-4)

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### **Look Touch Learn: Sea**

illustrated by Charlotte Archer

(Child's Play (International) Ltd, \$17.99) 978-1-78628-627-7

Images of the sea depicted in bright colors, shapes, moving parts and tactile elements to stimulate very young babies during "tummy time." (0-1)

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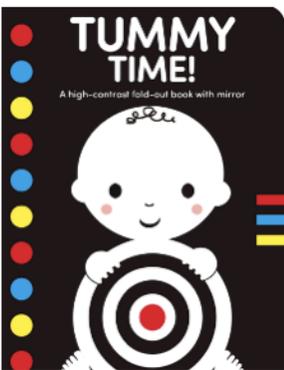
### **Look Touch Learn: Sky**

illustrated by Charlotte Archer

(Child's Play (International) Ltd, \$17.99) 978-1-78628-626-0

Images of the sky depicted in bright colors, shapes, moving parts and tactile elements to stimulate very young babies during "tummy time." (0-1)

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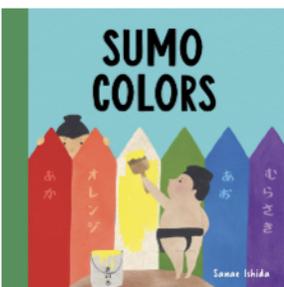
### **Tummy Time!: A high-contrast fold-out book with mirror**

by Mama Makes Books

(Red Comet Press, \$8.99) 978-1-63655-013-8

A board book for infants and babies to support visual stimulation, brain development and build strength. Black, white and red illustrations appropriate for babies. (0-1)

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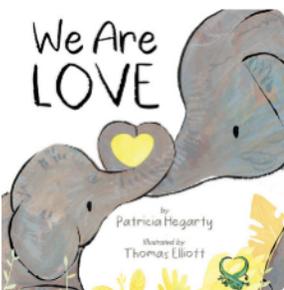
### **Sumo Colors**

written and illustrated by Sanae Ishida

(Little Big Foot, Sasquatch, \$9.99) 978-1-63217-344-7

Cheerful, vibrant illustrations depict red (aka) lanterns, yellow (kīro) ginkgo leaves, and other elements of Japanese culture. Bilingual in Japanese and English. (0-3)

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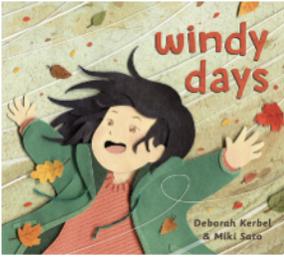
### **We Are Love**

by Patricia Hegarty, illustrated by Thomas Elliott

(Tiger Tales, \$9.99) 978-1-6643-5071-7

Animals and their babies celebrate the power of love in rhyming text. Illustrations employing die cuts demonstrate togetherness as the reader turns the page. (1-3)

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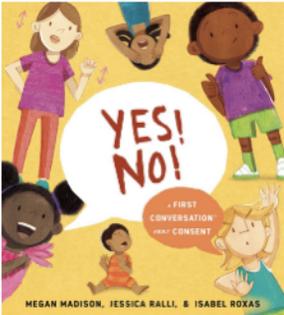


### **Windy Days**

by Deborah Kerbel, illustrated by Miki Sato  
(Pajama Press, \$10.95) 978-1-7727-827-07

This important natural force is celebrated in rhyming couplets. Fabric collage illustrations, back matter. (1-3)

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### **Yes! No!: A First Conversation about Consent**

by Megan Madison & Jessica Ralli, illustrated by Isabel Roxas  
(Penguin Workshop, \$8.99) 978-0-593-38332-2

Bold, expressive illustrations and straightforward text empowers young children to understand their own bodies, demand respect, and show respect to others. Additional content for adult readers. (2-4)

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The Committee is honored to dedicate  
this work and its biennial board book prize  
to Bank Street alumna and creator of  
*Goodnight Moon*, Margaret Wise Brown.

**Thanks to:**

Dr. Mollie Welsh Kruger

Dr. Cynthia Weill

Mary Anne Wolpert

And the entire Children's Book Committee  
at Bank Street College of Education  
for creation of this list.